



The following is responsive to the Office Action mailed May 17, 2002. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following:

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 44, and substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims having the same number:

Claim 1. A method of producing an aqueous paint composition, comprising:

placing a first premixed aqueous composition in a receiving reservoir, the first aqueous composition selected from a group of premixed aqueous compositions consisting of a pigment composition, a dispersant thickening agent, a high resin content binder, and a low resin content binder;

placing a second premixed aqueous composition in the receiving reservoir, the second aqueous composition selected from the group of premixed aqueous compositions, the second aqueous composition being a different one of the group of premixed aqueous compositions than the first aqueous composition;

placing a third premixed aqueous composition in the receiving reservoir, the third aqueous composition selected from the group of premixed aqueous compositions, the third aqueous composition being a different one of the group of premixed aqueous compositions than the first and second aqueous compositions; and

mixing the first composition with the second and third compositions.

Claim 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising mixing the aqueous paint composition.

Claim 5. The method of claim 1, wherein placing the first premixed aqueous paint composition in the receiving reservoir comprises placing an aqueous paint composition in the receiving reservoir which has been premixed as a pigment composition.

Claim 6. The method of claim 5, wherein placing the pigment composition in the receiving reservoir comprises placing a pigment composition in the receiving reservoir which has been premixed to include titanium dioxide.

Claim 7. The method of claim 6, wherein placing the pigment composition in the receiving reservoir which has been premixed to include titanium dioxide comprises placing a pigment composition in the receiving reservoir which has been premixed to include titanium dioxide in the range of 40 to 50 percent by weight of the pigment composition.

Claim 8. The method of claim 7, wherein placing the pigment composition in the receiving reservoir further comprises placing a pigment composition in the receiving reservoir which has been premixed to include water in an amount of about 25 percent by weight of the pigment composition, a mixture of clay and silica in an amount of about 15 percent by weight of the pigment composition, a viscosity controlling agent in an amount of about 10 percent by weight of the pigment composition, and a combination of dispersant and thickener in an amount of less than 5 percent by weight of the pigment composition.

Claim 9. The method of claim 5, wherein placing the second premixed aqueous paint composition in the receiving reservoir comprises placing an aqueous paint composition in the receiving reservoir which has been premixed as a dispersant thickening agent.

Claim 10. The method of claim 9, wherein placing the dispersant thickening agent in the receiving reservoir comprises placing a dispersant thickening agent in the reservoir which has been premixed to include water in an amount of about 93 percent by weight of the dispersant thickening agent, a phosphate-based dispersant in an amount of less than 1 percent by weight of the dispersant thickening agent, a cellulosic thickener in an amount of about 1 percent by weight of the dispersant thickening agent, and a coalescent in an amount of 4 to 5 percent by weight of the dispersant thickening agent.

Claim 11. The method of claim 5, wherein placing the second premixed aqueous paint composition in the receiving reservoir comprises placing an aqueous paint composition in the reservoir which has been premixed as a high resin content binder.

Claim 12. The method of claim 11, wherein placing the high resin content binder in the receiving reservoir comprises placing a high resin content binder in the receiving reservoir which has been premixed to include resin in an amount of about 80 percent by weight of the high resin content binder.

Claim 13. The method of claim 12, wherein placing the high resin content binder in the receiving reservoir further comprises placing a high resin content binder in the receiving reservoir which has been premixed to include water at about 15 percent by weight of the high resin content binder and a coalescent at about 2 percent by weight of the high resin content binder.

Claim 14. The method of claim 5, wherein placing the second premixed aqueous paint composition in the receiving reservoir comprises placing an aqueous paint composition in the receiving reservoir which has been premixed as a low resin content binder.

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Claim 15. The method of claim 14, wherein placing the low resin content binder in the receiving reservoir comprises placing a low resin content binder in the receiving reservoir which has been premixed to include about 50 percent resin by weight of the low resin content binder.

Claim 16. The method of claim 15, wherein placing the low resin content binder in the receiving reservoir further comprises placing a low resin content binder in the receiving reservoir which has been premixed to include about 28 percent water by weight of the low resin content binder, about 7 percent flattening agent by weight of the low resin content binder, about 11 percent limestone by weight of the low resin content binder, and about 3.5 percent calcined clay by weight of the low resin content binder.

Claim 17. A method of producing an aqueous paint composition, comprising:

mixing a first aqueous composition, the first aqueous composition selected from a group of aqueous compositions consisting of a pigment composition, a dispersant thickening agent, a high resin content binder, and a low resin content binder;

mixing a second aqueous composition, the second aqueous composition selected from the group of aqueous compositions, the second aqueous composition being a different one of the group of premixed aqueous compositions than the first aqueous composition;

mixing a third aqueous composition, the third aqueous composition selected from the group of aqueous compositions, the third aqueous composition being a different one of the group of premixed aqueous compositions than the first and second aqueous compositions;

storing the first aqueous composition in a first supply reservoir;

storing the second aqueous composition in a second supply reservoir;

storing the third aqueous composition in a third supply reservoir;

supplying the first aqueous composition from the first supply reservoir to a receiving reservoir;

supplying the second aqueous composition from the second supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir;

supplying the third aqueous composition from the third supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir; and

mixing the first composition with the second and third compositions.

Claim 18. The method of claim 17, wherein storing the first aqueous composition comprises storing the first aqueous composition for at least one day, and wherein storing the second aqueous composition comprises storing the second aqueous composition for at least one day.

Claim 19. The method of claim 17, wherein storing the first aqueous composition comprises storing the first aqueous composition for at least one week, and wherein storing the second aqueous composition comprises storing the second aqueous composition for at least one week.

Claim 20. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

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mixing a fourth aqueous composition, the fourth aqueous composition selected from the group of aqueous compositions, the fourth aqueous composition being a different one of the group of premixed aqueous compositions than the first aqueous composition, the second aqueous composition, or the third aqueous composition; and
storing the fourth aqueous composition in a fourth supply reservoir.

Claim 21. The method of claim 20, wherein mixing the first aqueous paint composition comprises mixing an aqueous paint composition to be a pigment composition.

Claim 22. The method of claim 21, wherein mixing the second aqueous paint composition comprises mixing an aqueous paint composition to be a dispersant thickening agent.

Claim 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising supplying the third aqueous composition from the third supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir.

Claim 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising supplying the fourth aqueous composition from the fourth supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir.

Claim 25. The method of claim 24, wherein mixing the aqueous paint composition to be a pigment composition comprises adding titanium dioxide in the range of 40 to 50 percent, adding water of about 25 percent, adding a mixture of clay and silica of about 15 percent, adding a viscosity controlling agent of about 10 percent, and adding a combination of dispersant and thickener in an amount of less than 5 percent, the percentages being based on weight of the pigment composition.

Claim 26. The method of claim 25, wherein mixing the aqueous paint composition to be a dispersant thickening agent comprises adding water in an amount of about 93 percent, adding a phosphate-based dispersant in an amount of less than 1 percent, adding a cellulosic thickener in an amount of about 1 percent, and adding a coalescent in an amount of 4 to 5 percent.

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Claim 27. The method of claim 26, wherein mixing the aqueous paint composition to be a high resin content binder comprises adding resin in an amount of about 80 percent, adding water in an amount of about 15 percent and adding a coalescent in an amount of about 2 percent.

Claim 28. The method of claim 27, wherein mixing the aqueous paint composition to be a low resin content binder comprises adding about 50 percent resin by weight of the low resin content binder, about 28 percent water by weight of the low resin content binder, about 7 percent flattening agent by weight of the low resin content binder, about 11 percent limestone by weight of the low resin content binder, and about 3.5 percent calcined clay by weight of the low resin content binder.

Claim 29. The method of claim 17, further comprising mixing the aqueous paint composition.

Claim 42. A method of producing an aqueous paint composition comprising:

storing a first premixed composition in a first supply reservoir, the first premixed composition selected from a group of compositions consisting of a pigment composition, a dispersant thickening agent, a high resin content binder, and a low resin content binder;

storing a second premixed composition in a second supply reservoir, the second premixed composition selected from the group of compositions, wherein the second premixed composition is a different one of the group of compositions than the first premixed composition;

storing a third premixed composition in a third supply reservoir, the third premixed composition selected from the group of compositions, wherein the third premixed composition is a different one of the group of compositions than the first and second premixed compositions;

determining a first predetermined amount of the first premixed composition;

determining a second predetermined amount of the second premixed composition;

determining a third predetermined amount of the third premixed composition;

supplying the first premixed composition from the first supply reservoir to a receiving reservoir;

supplying the second premixed composition from the second supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir;

supplying the third premixed composition from the third supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir;

measuring a first flow amount of the first premixed composition supplied from the first supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir;

measuring a second flow amount of the second premixed composition supplied from the second supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir;

measuring a third flow amount of the third premixed composition supplied from the third supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir;

Claim 42. (Continued)

ceasing supply of the first premixed composition from the first supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir when the first flow amount equals the first predetermined amount;

ceasing supply of the second premixed composition from the second supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir when the second flow amount equals the second predetermined amount;

ceasing supply of the third premixed composition from the third supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir when the third flow amount equals the third predetermined amount; and

mixing the first composition with the second and third compositions.

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Claim 43. The method of claim 42,

wherein ceasing supply of the first premixed composition comprises closing a first valve that is fluidly connected to the first supply reservoir and that is fluidly connected to the receiving reservoir; and

wherein ceasing supply of the second premixed composition comprises closing a second valve that is fluidly connected to the second supply reservoir and that is fluidly connected to the receiving reservoir.

Claim 45. The method of claim 42, further comprising:

storing a fourth premixed composition in a fourth supply reservoir, the fourth premixed composition selected from the group of compositions, wherein the fourth premixed composition is a different one of the group of compositions than the first premixed composition, the second premixed composition, or the third premixed composition;

determining a fourth predetermined amount of the fourth premixed composition;

supplying the fourth premixed composition from the fourth supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir;

measuring a fourth flow amount of the fourth premixed composition supplied from the fourth supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir; and

ceasing supply of the fourth premixed composition from the fourth supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir when the fourth flow amount equals the fourth predetermined amount.

Claim 46. The method of claim 42,

wherein supplying the first premixed composition comprises pumping the first premixed composition; and

wherein supplying the second premixed composition comprises pumping the second premixed composition.

Claim 47. The method of claim 42, wherein supplying the first premixed composition and ceasing supply of the first premixed composition are completed before supplying the second premixed composition and ceasing supply of the second premixed composition have begun.

Claim 48. The method of claim 47,

wherein measuring the first flow amount comprises measuring a weight of the receiving reservoir; and

wherein measuring the second flow amount comprises measuring a weight of the receiving reservoir.

Claim 49. The method of claim 48,

wherein measuring the first flow amount comprises recalibrating a scale before supplying the first premixed composition from the first supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir; and

wherein measuring the second flow amount comprises recalibrating the scale after supplying the first premixed composition from the first supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir, but before supplying the second premixed composition from the second supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir.

Claim 50. The method of claim 42,

wherein determining a first predetermined amount comprises calculating the first predetermined amount using desired paint characteristics that have been input into a user interface by a user;

wherein determining a second predetermined amount comprises calculating the second predetermined amount using the desired paint characteristics; and

wherein the first predetermined amount and the second predetermined amount are calculated so that the method will produce a paint composition having the desired characteristics.